PACS: 42.15.Eq, 42.62.Cf

Design, manufacture and testing of a galvanometer scanner

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Received September 16, 2022

A galvanometric scanner (galvoscanner) is a device for turning a laser beam through a certain angle. The article considers both approaches to designing elements of a galvo scanner (a DC motor, a scanning mirror, a rotation angle sensor, a galvo scanner control driver board), and the results of testing its performance after manufacturing. The mirror and sensor were driven by a brushless DC torque motor with a rotor made of a permanent strong magnet made of neodymium, boron and iron – NdFeB. The mirrors were made of singlecrystal silicon and designed for an input laser beam aperture of 15 mm. The mirrors have a reflective coating that provides a specular reflection coefficient $R \ge 99.6$ % for a laser wavelength $\lambda = 1080 \pm 1$ nm. The design of an optical absolute rotation angle sensor (encoder) using LEDs and photodiodes has been developed. When developing the control board (driver) for the galvo scanner, a hybrid analog-digital architecture was used, the digital part of the driver is a digital signal processor.

Galvoscanners were tested for performance according to the developed program and methodology on a special stand and equipment made for testing. As a result of testing, the main design characteristics (scan angles, scan pitch, scan speed and positional repeatability, temperature zero offset and long-term drift) were exceeded.

Keywords: galvanometric scanner, galvoscanner, galvo motor, deflector, scanning mirror, rotation angle sensor.

DOI: 10.51368/2307-4469-2022-10-5-490-500

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